

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00  
PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 /069 W  
-----048237 251214Z /10

O P 251157Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7999  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
USDEL MC BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY  
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG PRIORITY  
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 07657

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, MILI, GW  
SUBJECT: APEL COMMENTS ON NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR  
AWACS PURCHASE

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1. THE APRIL 24 EDITION OF THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE  
CARRIED A SHORT ARTICLE REPORTING ON DEFENSE MINISTER  
APEL'S SPEECH TO THE SPD CONFERENCE ON SECURITY POLICY,  
WHICH TOOK PLACE AT BUCHHOLZ, NEAR HAMBURG, OVER THE  
WEEKEND. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN FULL TEXT OF THE  
SPEECH AND WILL CABLE IT AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

2. THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ARTICLE STATED THAT APEL'S SPEECH OUTLINED IN DETAIL THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE MET TO ENABLE THE FRG GOVERNMENT TO APPROVE AN AWACS PURCHASE. APEL MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE CONSIDERS THE PROJECT AS UNAVOIDABLE AND NECESSARY BUT FOR ALLIANCE POLICY AND NOT MILITARY REASONS. ONE CANNOT OVERLOOK THE FACT, THE ARTICLE STATED, THAT NATO HAD ALREADY GONE THROUGH A TWO-YEAR DISCUSSION PERIOD ON THIS PROJECT AND THAT APEL'S PREDESSOR HAD TAKEN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD AWACS DURING THESE NEGOTIATIONS. THUS IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO WITHDRAW NOW BY SHOUTING APRIL FOOL. IT WOULD BE QUESTIONABLE IF NATO COULD WITHSTAND SUCH A BLOW.

3. IN REFERRING TO HIS TALKS WITH SECRETARY BROWN, THE ARTICLE WENT ON TO SAY, APEL MADE IT CLEAR TO HIS AUDIENCE THAT HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD AWACS IS NOT ONE OF AN UNCONDITIONAL YES. HE HAD TOLD BROWN CLEARLY THAT BONN WOULD NOT MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION OF APPROXIMATELY DM 1.5 BILLION FOR AWACS, WITHOUT THE US RECIPROCATING BY MAKING CONSIDERABLE ARMS PURCHASES IN THE FRG. APEL CONTINUED THAT HE COULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH THE US STATEMENT ON GEPARD TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WAS VERY GOOD BUT TOO EXPENSIVE. ALSO IT DOES NOT APPEAR PROPER THAT THE GERMAN CONTRIBUTION TO AWACS IS BETWEEN 30 AND 35 CONFIDENTIAL

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PERCENT, WHILE ITALY WITH A \$1 MILLION DOLLAR PAYMENT IS MAKING ONLY A SYMBOLIC CONTRIBUTION, EVEN LESS THAN THAT OF LUXEMBOURG.

4. BEFORE HE WOULD ASK THE BUNDESTAG FOR A DECISION ON AWACS, APEL REPORTEDLY SAID, THREE QUESTIONS REQUIRE CLARIFICATION:

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NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
INRE-00 ICAE-00 EB-08 COME-00 /069 W  
-----048255 251213Z /10

O P 251157Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8000  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 07657

(1) WHAT IS THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF AWACS?

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(2) WHAT SHARE WILL GERMAN INDUSTRY HAVE IN  
PRODUCING AWACS?

(3) HOW MUCH IN THE WAY OF ARMAMENTS WILL THE US  
BUY IN GERMANY IN COMPENSATION?

IN REGARD TO THE LATTER QUESTION, APEL WANTS THE  
US TO USE THE GERMAN 120 MM GUN FOR ITS XM-1 TANKS, TO  
EQUIP THE US UNITS STATIONED IN EUROPE WITH GERMAN-MADE  
RADAR VEHICLES AND TO EQUIP THE US 7TH ARMY STATIONED IN  
THE FRG WITH 180 "GEPARD" TANKS. THE AMERICAN INTENTION  
AT THE MOMENT IS TO LEASE THESE TANKS.

5. APEL INSISTS, THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY, THAT GERMAN INDUSTRIES SHARE IN THE PRODUCTION OF AWACS CORRESPONDS TO APPROXIMATELY 45 PERCENT OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO AWACS, WHICH WITH A CONTRIBUTION OF DM 1.5 BILLION WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY DM 700 MILLION. APEL DOES NOT CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE TO CLARIFY ALL THESE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE COMING NATO SUMMIT MEETING IN WASHINGTON. IN THE EVENT THAT HE SHOULD FAIL TO ACHIEVE CONDITIONS DESIRED DURING HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALLIANCE PARTNERS, HE EXPECTS THAT THE BUNDESTAG WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE AWACS PROJECT, APEL ADDED.

6. COMMENT: APEL'S COMMENTS DO NOT CONFIRM WHAT WE KNOW OF THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING SECRETARY BROWN'S VISIT, OR WHAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM THE BUNDESTAG REGARDING ITS CONCERNS. WE HAVE ALREADY CONTACTED APPROPRIATE FMOD OFFICIALS TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF APEL'S ALLEGED COMMENTS. THE FMOD DOES NOT AS YET HAVE COPIES OF HIS SPEECH. A COMPLETE TEXT OF THE SPEECH, WHICH WAS TAPED, IS BEING TRANSCRIBED  
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AT SPD PARTY HEADQUARTERS AND WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL TOMORROW AFTERNOON AFTER APEL HAS HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW IT AND HAS APPROVED ITS RELEASE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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